

Hurricane Georges Reconstruction and Recovery Project in the Eastern Caribbean

Quarterly Report April - June 2001

This is the sixth quarterly report on the Hurricane Georges Reconstruction and Recovery Project currently underway in the countries of Antigua & Barbuda and St. Kitts & Nevis.

Background

The following activities have been planned under the SpO:

IR-1: Hospital Services Restoration (St. Kitts & Nevis only), PAHO Grant for \$1.6 M.

IR-2: Local Mitigation Capacity Enhancement (St. Kitts/Nevis, Antigua/Barbuda), OAS Cooperative Agreement. \$1.15M

IR-3: Economic Activities Reactivated, Grantees to be determined for \$0.45M

The agreement with the OAS was signed on January 13, 2000. The grant to PAHO was signed on December 23, 1999.

IR-1 Hospital Services Restoration/PAHO

Hospital Reconstruction

The construction of the pediatric ward, which was started on September 4, 2000, is in the final stage of construction (95%) complete and is now scheduled for completion on July 30, 2001. All walls are in place, roofing as well as the installation of conduits, related fixtures, ceiling and floor tiles are now complete. The installation of windows and lighting fixtures are currently underway, these items were delayed in arriving from the supplier on time and actually came to the site during the last two weeks of June.

Handing over of the pediatric ward will take place in late September following the (i) completion of the shared wall with the Obstetrics Ward which is currently under construction by others, and (ii) placement of equipment in the ward.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The three issues highlighted by the environmental impact assessment are being addressed as follows: (i) the method of disposal of treated waste from the site is being addressed under the project. A review meeting to include the Government of St. Kitts, commercial businesses adjacent to the hospital and the project consultants is scheduled for early August, following the design of the sewage outfall. The meeting will address the proposed remedial measures as well as funding for the planned outfall, (ii) the sizing and placement of the incinerator will be addressed by the World Bank, and (iii) the upgrade to the sewage treatment plant will be done under a current European Union project.

Equipment Procurement

The supply and installation of an X-Ray unit for the hospital will be done early August following the completion of the building and the arrival of the equipment on July 30, 2001. The additional equipment ordered under the project, has begun to arrive on the island and will also be installed in August. Additional equipment is now being procured following the availability of additional resources currently being transferred within the project.

Training

Training in disaster management (supplies) was held in St. Kitts in May. A total of 15 persons were trained under the program.

IR-2 Local Mitigation Capacity Enhancement/OAS

Development and implementation of effective national hazard mitigation policies and operational plans

The status of the related activities for St. Kitts-Nevis and Antigua-Barbuda follows:

- *Beach erosion* hazard assessments have been completed. Presentation of the final results was made to the both governments.
- *Inland flooding* hazard assessments for both countries have now been completed.
- *Drought* hazard assessment technical reports were completed and distributed for review in Antigua, Barbuda and Nevis. Drought was not identified as a priority hazard for St. Kitts.
- *Storm surge and tropical windstorm* hazard assessments have now been completed and have been made available to both countries.
- *Inland erosion* hazard assessments were completed for Antigua, Barbuda and St. Kitts. Inland erosion was not identified as a priority for Nevis.

- *Volcanic* hazard assessment for St. Kitts-Nevis was submitted by the University of the West Indies Seismic Research Unit as a part of a broader volcanic hazard work it is undertaking in the Eastern Caribbean.
- Over 250 facilities have been inventoried and mapped in Antigua-Barbuda. The final vulnerability assessment work covering these sites has now been completed. In St. Kitts-Nevis, the mapping of critical facilities was also completed. Vulnerability assessment work is in its final stages.

In both countries, multi-sectoral committees and a mitigation plan coordinator are continuing work on the development of the national hazard mitigation policies/plans using the inputs as above. The policy/plans will be completed in July.

Building Codes Adopted, and Building Practices Improved

The status of activities under this objective follows:

- The project assisted in the publication of the St. Kitts-Nevis building codes which are now on sale to the general public. In addition, in response to requests arising from the building inspector training workshop, the 24 copies each of small format versions of the building codes and building guidelines for both countries were prepared and delivered.
- Following completion of the second roundtable meeting on hazard mitigation in the banking and insurance sectors, participants indicated that the two sectors were in the process of making operational changes to address the issues at hand. Highlights of the meeting were (i) Upgrading Public Awareness (ii) Effective Dissemination, Application, and Enforcement of Building Codes, and (iii) Establishing effective cooperation going forward between bankers, insurers, construction professionals and trades people.

Establish comprehensive national emergency shelter policies and programs

CDERA, which was contracted by the OAS, has updated their model shelter management policy, conducted reviews of the existing shelter programs in both countries and conducted workshops on the development of new shelter management policies. The draft national policies and handbooks resulting will be presented at a final set of national consultation meetings in July.

Increased public awareness

To augment the significant public information activities associated with all project workshops and activities to date, the project is funding the development of hazard mitigation education and promotional materials for use in a variety of sectors. In St. Kitts/Nevis, a video of safer building practices has been developed. This video and previously recorded hurricane preparedness radio and TV bulletins are scheduled for airing in the local media. Simultaneously, the project is supporting the creation of a series of bulletin boards and banners, which will be erected in July. Activities in Antigua-Barbuda also include a video with a variety of mitigation related performance pieces and calypso in support of mitigation. All work will be completed in July.

IR-3 Economic Activities Reactivated

- The Grant Agreement with the Foundation for National Development (FND) in St. Kitts was signed on November 28, 2001. The full grant amount of \$350,000 has now been issued as loans to over 100 clients by the FND. A sample audit of the files was carried out with all files investigated found to be in order.
- The amount of \$200,000 previously earmarked to rehabilitate agricultural export facilities has been de-earmarked for this use and will be used elsewhere in the project. This decision follows a series of delays in project development, the last issue being that no responses were received from the government recommended A & E firms which were solicited to carryout design and project management work. Restarting the solicitation process would lead to the high probability that completion of rehabilitation work would not be achieved before the end date of the Hurricane Georges project.

USAID Project Management

- Extension of USAID's contract with PAHO from July 31, 2001 to October 30, 2001 to facilitate the completion of the sewage outfall and the procurement of additional equipment.
- Attending site meetings and Project Steering Committee meetings in St. Kitts.

Financial Summary

The following table* presents a summary of the financial details to June 30, 2001.

| <u>Program Element</u> | <u>Obligated (\$)</u> | <u>Expended/ Accrued (\$)</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| IR-1 Hospital Restoration | 1,820,000 | 1,445,560 |
| IR -2 Local Mitigation | 1,150,000 | 1,100,172 |
| IR - 3 Economic Reactivation | 350,000* | 350,000 |
| USAID Project Management | 180,000 | 124,639 |
| TOTAL | 3,500,000 | 3,030,371 |

Note: The above table reflects expenditure/accruals for IR – 1 & 2 as reported by PAHO and the OAS, or as received by the Project Manager from the field.

***The amount of \$200,000 will be transferred to IR –1 to facilitate the construction of a wastewater outfall and additional equipment purchases.**

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